

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

J. D. DUNSHEE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Public Health Aspects of the Cancer Problem

At a recent convention of public health officers and public health nurses held in New York State, an address upon the public health aspects of the cancer problem was read. The growing interest in cancer, stimulated no doubt by the increased mortality rates, is responsible for the stimulation of activity related to the prevention of the disease. In some eastern states public health departments include the laboratory diagnosis and the maintenance of cancer clinics as part of specific public health programs.

The abstract of the address referred to is as follows:

"Cancer as a problem is viewed differently by various persons interested in public health because it combines elements of a complex constitutional disease with impressive numerical incidence and with the certainly fatal outcome—when untreated—of a virulent acute disease.

Because cancer is a complex condition, long-time continuing programs must be developed for its eventual control.

In this work the utilization of existing public health and medical agencies is, in almost every case, the most effective and economical procedure. The cooperation of public health groups has been excellent.

Some of the advances that are being made are as follows:

(1) Improvement of records and statistics. This is included in all forward-looking studies

of vital statistics and is essential to the proper development of any long-time campaign against cancer.

(2) A steadily increasing emphasis on the preventive aspects of the cancer problem. This is of paramount importance, since the observance of regular and adequate hygienic principles definitely diminishes the chance of the occurrence of cancer.

(3) Assistance in the educational campaign against cancer. In this respect the contribution of public health groups has been extremely valuable. In many cases these groups possess both the opportunity to reach great numbers of people and the organization to make this possible. The utilization of these facilities is a fundamental part of education against cancer.

(4) Alleviation of the phobia factor in cancer. The sane, normal and constructive attitude of public health organizations has proven the greatest single weapon against cancer phobia. As a result it is possible to make progress against the disease to a degree otherwise impossible.

Increased interest in cancer on the part of the rank and file of the medical profession is due in no small degree to the impersonal and logical development of the public's interest in health. Public health organizations by enlightening the laity on many matters of public health have provided impetus to the medical profession to equip itself more completely against such diseases as cancer."

MANY HIGHWAY FOOD SUPPLY PLACES INSPECTED

Following is a résumé of food supply places, soft drink stands and service stations along the various highways of California that were inspected, during October, by the Bureau of Sanitary Inspection:

Bodega Bay Highway:

Food supply places.....	7
Conditions satisfactory.....	2
Minor defects.....	2
Insanitary conditions.....	3
Closed.....	1

Highway 101, Sonoma County Line to Santa Rosa:

Food supply places.....	10
Conditions satisfactory.....	3
Minor defects.....	5
Insanitary Conditions.....	2
Closed.....	1

Highway 101, Santa Rosa to Healdsburg:

Food supply places.....	19
Conditions satisfactory.....	14
Minor defects.....	4
Insanitary conditions.....	1
Closed.....	3
Service stations.....	6
Conditions satisfactory.....	6

Highway 101, north from Cloverdale toward Mendocino County line:

Food supply places.....	3
Conditions satisfactory.....	2
Minor defects.....	1

Highway 101, north from Mendocino County through Ukiah:

Food supply places.....	18
Conditions satisfactory.....	11
Minor defects.....	5
Insanitary conditions.....	2
Service stations.....	4
Conditions satisfactory.....	4

Highway 101, north of Ukiah to Willits:

Food supply places.....	9
Conditions satisfactory.....	5
Minor defects.....	2
Insanitary conditions.....	2
Service stations.....	3
Conditions satisfactory.....	2
Minor defects.....	1

Highway 101, Willits to Humboldt County line:

Food establishments.....	10
Conditions satisfactory.....	5
Minor defects.....	3
Insanitary conditions.....	2

Highway 101, Humboldt County line to Rio Del:

Food establishments.....	8
Conditions satisfactory.....	4
Minor defects.....	3
Insanitary conditions.....	1
Service stations.....	2
Conditions satisfactory.....	1
Minor defects.....	1

Highway 101, 8 miles north of Arcata:

Food establishments.....	7
Conditions satisfactory.....	5
Minor defects.....	2
Service stations.....	4
Conditions satisfactory.....	2
Minor defects.....	2

Highway Martinez to San Joaquin County line via Antioch and Brentwood:

Food supply places inspected.....	14
Conditions satisfactory.....	11
Minor defects.....	3
Service stations inspected.....	10
Conditions satisfactory.....	7
Minor defects.....	3

Miscellaneous food supply places along highways:

Inspected and reinspected.....	74
Conditions satisfactory.....	45
Minor defects.....	22
Insanitary conditions.....	7

Total roadside food supply places inspected.....

Conditions satisfactory.....	107
Minor defects.....	52
Insanitary conditions.....	20
Service stations inspected.....	29
Conditions satisfactory.....	22
Minor defects.....	7

MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS REACH NEW HIGH

There were 245 deaths due to motor vehicle accidents in California during August, 1934. This is more deaths from this cause than have ever occurred during a single month in the history of this State. By specific causes, these 245 deaths are distributed as follows:

Collision with pedestrian.....	67
Collision with other motor vehicle.....	89
Collision with railroad train.....	14
Collision with electric car.....	6
Collision with bicycle.....	7
Collision with fixed object.....	18
Noncollision.....	44

By age groups, these deaths were distributed as follows:

Under 4 years of age.....	4
5-14 years.....	18
15-24 years.....	52
25-64 years.....	145
65 years and over.....	26

It is interesting to note that out of 515 deaths due to accidental causes that occurred during August almost half were due to motor vehicle accidents. Deaths due to other public accidents reached a total of but 122. This includes 45 deaths from drowning, 15 deaths in railroad accidents in which motor vehicles are not involved, and 18 deaths due to falls.

During the same month there were 102 deaths due to accidents in the home. Of these 42 were due to falls, 32 of which occurred in persons more than 65 years of age. There were but 42 deaths due to occupational accidents during this month which is indicative of the excellent results that are achieved in the prevention of deaths due to occupational causes.

NEW HEALTH OFFICER APPOINTED

Dr. Anne L. Brady has been appointed city health officer of Ross to replace Dr. Geo. H. Willcutt.

WHY NOT IMMUNIZE?

No program for immunization against diphtheria is complete—there always remains a minority of susceptible individuals. This minority may constitute a potential menace to the health of children within the community. Failure to obtain immunization against this disease may be due to a number of different reasons. In every community there are certain families which have refused or neglected to take advantage of the protection that is provided by health departments. In Santa Barbara County, the health officer has recorded the reasons given by parents for not having their children immunized. The reasons they stated may not indicate the true opinion but they provide interesting data upon why this beneficent service is not accepted. The study made by the staff of the Santa Barbara County Health Department includes reports of 355 children in that county who are between the ages of six months and fifteen years, but most of whom are of school age. None of them have ever been immunized against diphtheria. They live in 164 homes scattered throughout the northern part of the county. The 164 answers, as recorded, are grouped arbitrarily under five headings as follows:

1. Lethargy—

Fifty-one (31%), including such answers as: "I will next time"; "Too much trouble"; "All right—if the child wants it"; "Forgot to come."

2. Ignorance—

Twenty-six (16%), including such answers as: "Too young yet"; "Already had diphtheria"; "Wait till exposed"; "Just another fad"; "Not afraid of diphtheria"; "We didn't have it when we were children"; "Never been sick."

3. Opposition—

Eighty-four (51%), including such answers as: "Don't believe in it"; "Made neighbor's child's arm sore"; "Religious objection"; "Poisons the blood"; "Previous unpleasant experience"; "It would hurt"; "Don't like the idea."

4. Economic Reasons—

One. "Have lately moved here; was not given free where I lived."

5. Legitimate Medical—

Three. "Child has been sick"; "Our doctor (chiropractor) advises against it."

In commenting upon this subject, Dr. R. C. Main, the county health officer, states:

"It appears, therefore, that our failure to wipe out diphtheria completely is due, in large part, to opposition of the parents. We have learned, however, that this attitude of the parents is not unchangeable. Again and again, by the use of tact and a continuous educational program upon the subject, we have had parents apply for this protection for their children when they had previously bitterly opposed it. Indeed, many of the children listed in this study have since been immunized."

HEALTH CONSERVATION CONTESTS

Readers of this publication are familiar with the city health contest which is now being carried on for its sixth consecutive year, in which a large number of cities in the State of California have participated and many of them quite successfully, a number of them even being winners of first prizes. The city contest is being continued and a number of new cities in California have enrolled for the 1934 contest.

A new health conservation contest has been started for 1934 for full time units (county or district). The qualifications for participation in this rural contest are first that the unit be served by a full time health service; second, that it have a chamber of commerce to enroll it; and, third, that its chamber of commerce be affiliated with the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. James Wallace, field director for the health contest, is now in California and has been visiting all enrolled counties, and also as many of the cities as practicable. He reports that already more than seventy-five counties have enrolled for the rural contest. Every State east of the Mississippi which has eligible units is now represented, and every State west of the Mississippi that has eligible units, with the exception of one (and that one has only one eligible county), is also represented.

In the city contest the cities are divided into six population groups, whereas in the rural contest the whole of the United States has been divided into six geographical divisions, three east of the Mississippi and three west of it. California belongs to the western, or Pacific, division. Participating units will compete only against other units in their own division. Awards are to be given to the six counties scoring highest in the way of health accomplishments in each of the six geographical divisions. The special award, which is given in addition to the regular awards in the city contest, will no doubt be duplicated in the rural contest. This year, the special award was won by a western city—Tacoma. This award is in the form of a complete health survey and is not available to cities or counties winning awards in the current year. In other words, it is awarded on the basis of the need for such a survey and on the willingness of the community to make a serious effort to carry out reasonable recommendations that are made in the survey.

* * * We do not yet sufficiently realize the truth that as, in this life of ours, the physical underlies the mental, the mental must not be developed at the expense of the physical * * *.—Herbert Spencer (1860).

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending
November 17, 1934

Chickenpox

271 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 1, Hayward 1, Oakland 26, San Leandro 14, Contra Costa County 1, Richmond 2, Fresno County 3, Fresno 1, Humboldt County 1, Eureka 2, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 7, Glendale 1, Hermosa 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 19, Pasadena 1, Pomona 6, Santa Monica 1, Monterey Park 1, Madera County 8, Madera 3, San Anselmo 25, Fairfax 7, Monterey County 3, Placer County 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 23, San Diego County 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 44, San Joaquin County 1, Manteca 8, Stockton 3, San Luis Obispo County 2, Paso Robles 5, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 13, Gilroy 1, Los Gatos 2, Suisun 1, Stanislaus County 1, Ventura County 5, Marysville 1.

Diphtheria

64 cases: Oakland 3, Kern County 1, Alhambra 1, Glendora 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 21, Pomona 2, Torrance 3, South Gate 1, Gardena 1, Madera County 1, Merced County 2, Merced 1, Monterey County 1, Orange County 3, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 4, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 2, San Diego 3, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 2, Redwood City 1, Tehama County 1, Ventura 1.

German Measles

10 cases: Placerville 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 2, Santa Ana 2, San Diego 1, Lompoc 1, Santa Maria 1.

Influenza

37 cases: Placerville 1, Kern County 3, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Claremont 2, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 24, San Francisco 1, Stanislaus County 1, Lindsay 1.

Malaria

3 cases: Sacramento 1, San Joaquin County 1, Ventura County 1.

Measles

246 cases: Oakland 3, Fresno 1, Eureka 10, Los Angeles County 3, Burbank 1, Los Angeles 3, Maywood 1, San Anselmo 1, Salinas 2, Orange County 12, Tustin 1, Riverside County 2, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 3, San Joaquin County 50, Stockton 59, Tracy 50, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Maria 24, Santa Cruz County 2, Santa Cruz 1, Siskiyou County 1, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 1, Exeter 9, Ventura 1, Woodland 1.

Mumps

97 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Emeryville 4, Hayward 4, Oakland 3, San Leandro 3, Amador County 1, Contra Costa County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 4, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 6, Torrance 1, San Anselmo 4, Nevada County 1, Sacramento County 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 10, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 5, Stockton 4, San Luis Obispo County 3, Daly City 1, Santa Barbara County 4, Santa Maria 17, Gilroy 7, Stanislaus County 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

21 cases: Oakland 2, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 4, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 1, Hawthorne 1, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara 2, Palo Alto 1, Solano County 1, Tulare County 1.

Scarlet Fever

185 cases: Berkeley 2, Oakland 7, Colusa 1, Contra Costa County 1, Richmond 1, Fresno County 5, Fresno 5, Sanger 1, Humboldt County 1, Eureka 3, Imperial County 1, El Centro 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 23, Claremont 5, Compton 1, Culver City 2, Huntington Park 1, La Verne 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 37, Pasadena 1, Torrance 1, South Gate 2, Fairfax 1, Napa County 1, Orange County 5, Anaheim 4, Santa Ana 3, Laguna Beach 1, Colfax 1, Riverside County 5, Corona 1, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 1, Redlands 1, San Diego County 4, San Diego 7, San Francisco 11, San Joaquin County 3, Redwood City 2, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 3, San Jose 5, Stanislaus County 1, Corning 1, Exeter 1, Ventura County 4, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 3.

Smallpox

2 cases: Los Angeles 1, Ventura 1.

Typhoid Fever

17 cases: Fresno County 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2, Gardena 1, Merced County 1, San Bernardino County 1, Stockton 1, Tracy 1, Shasta County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Tulare County 3, Oxnard 1, California 1.*

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Whooping Cough

93 cases: Oakland 2, Los Angeles County 11, Alhambra 1, Burbank 7, Culver City 3, Glendora 1, Los Angeles 17, Mill Valley 4, San Anselmo 1, Huntington Beach 3, Orange 2, Santa Ana 2, La Habra 4, San Diego 9, San Francisco 4, Stockton 6, San Luis Obispo 3, Santa Barbara County 2, Lompoc 6, Palo Alto 4, Ventura County 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Fresno County.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

One case: Sunnyvale.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

17 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 15.

Pellagra

One case: San Francisco.

Poliomyelitis

22 cases: Kern County 3, Bakersfield 2, Kings County 2, Los Angeles 4, Madera 3, Monterey County 1, Orange County 1, San Bernardino County 2, Redlands 1, Sonoma County 1, Santa Rosa 1, Ventura County 1.

Tetanus

2 cases: Glenn County 1, San Diego 1.

Trachoma

7 cases: Los Angeles 1, Riverside County 6.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case: Merced County.

Paratyphoid Fever

One case: Los Angeles County.

Trichinosis

6 cases: San Francisco.

Food Poisoning

9 cases: San Francisco 7, Redwood City 2.

Undulant Fever

4 cases: Sacramento 1, Redlands 3.

Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

7 cases: Madera County 4, South San Francisco 3.

Rabies (Animal)

13 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 5, Monterey Park 1, Monterey County 2, Monterey 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 1.

AUGUST MORTALITY

There were 5106 deaths that occurred in California during August, 1934. Of these 1409 were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system and 704 were due to cancer. These two diseases caused more than forty-one per cent of all deaths that occurred in California during the month. The numbers of deaths due to certain other causes are as follows:

Diseases of the nervous system	436
Nephritis	352
Diseases of the digestive system	346
Tuberculosis (all forms)	337
Diseases of the respiratory system	197
Diabetes	98
Childbirth	30

Among deaths due to diseases of the nervous system, it should be noted that 341 were due to cerebral hemorrhage (apoplexy). Of the total deaths 4852 were in members of the white race and 254 were among the colored population.

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